

AXIS MUNDI

Autumn Issue 49 – March 2012

ISSN 1839-4396





The beginning of a circle is also its end. Not I, but the world says it: all is one. And yet everything comes in season. - Heraklitos of Ephesos



Spheres of Light
ABN 46 385 794 818
For general inquiries:
Phone Janine on 0408 025 268
inquiries@spheresoflight.com.au
<http://spheresoflight.com.au/>



In addition to our regular Full Moon Circles we also run workshops and classes which are highly interactive and experiential, focusing on participation and engagement of participants. If you want to keep abreast of SOL's circles, gatherings, workshops and activities please click on the banner below to check out our Events Calendar.



SPHERES OF LIGHT & AXIS MUNDI ARE BASED IN AUSTRALIA. ALL EVENTS HOSTED BY SOL ARE HELD IN THE SYDNEY-ILLAWARRA AREA OF NSW.

If you wish to be removed from this list [click here](#). Spheres Of Light is proud to be an official Affiliate Subcommittee of the Pagan Awareness Network Australia Inc. For more information regarding PAN Inc., please visit their website: www.paganawareness.net.au.

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Cover – Green Man by ~markt3000Digital Art / Photomanipulation / Fantasy



Axis Mundi is 4 years old!

Happy Birthday!

The year is racing ahead and we are now at the point between lightness and darkness. The Autumn Equinox is a perfect occasion to consider balance and harmony and how those forces are at work within your life. It is important at this time to remember that the only constant in life is change; decisions are made and actions are generated. Life can present us with a variety of tragedy, mediocrity and moments of tremendous joy. While the past cannot be altered, the bountiful harvest of wisdom gained from each experience is truly a gift. With a perceptive mind, we can locate those grains of wisdom and insight to plant as seeds for a more gratifying future.

On reflection of what has been happening these past few years I realised that it is now four years that Axis Mundi was started. In March 2008 this little newsletter grew substantially and moved to its own website and was renamed the "Axis Mundi Newsletter".

Since then the Axis Mundi has evolved further and has featured articles and artwork by many different contributors not only from the core group of writers from SOL, but also from people not affiliated with the group, from Australia and overseas. In June 2011 it took a giant step in its evolution with a total redesign of its appearance and presentation so it looked less like a website and more like a magazine.

I would like to take this opportunity to give a big thankyou to Jenny Taylor and all our wonderful contributors for their dedication and hard work over the past four years. Hopefully it will continue to expand its horizons over the years to come.

Janine

Magical Workings for April



At autumn an awareness of the relationship between self and other becomes important: summer has ended, and nature is beginning to batten down. Increasing darkness and cold, not yet serious, but making its presence felt, is impinging on nature and people, making them aware that they are part of and affected by a larger wholeness, which at this point is asserting its primacy. Individuals therefore must respond and adapt to these climatic changes.

The relative freedom and bounty of summer is gone. Traditionally, it the time of the harvests and the annual slaughter. Our urges to belong to a family, to society, to tradition and to social mores become stronger here. The ancients held fire ceremonies at Samhain to recognise that, while the solar light is dying, the light within is reborn: this is a time of death of the old, yet within it is the eventual promise of rebirth of the new. It is a time of forced adjustment (like death, something we must accept when it comes). Once accepted, it reveals a new set of possibilities, a new power in life – the power to survive and make something good by being a part of something larger.



7 April Full Moon in Libra

The key phase for Libra is "I harmonise". This full moon allows us to remove our mask and embrace our true being, which will allow our path to become clearer and more focused while bringing in others who will support us in our current life situation. . Libra rules strategy, diplomacy, negotiation, discussion, politeness, etiquette, socializing, laziness, tyranny of the weak, romanticism, mentors, or your significant other, love and marriage.

Spells for legal matters in general, justice, contracts, love, romance and dating, partnerships, marriage, war and/or peace,

balance, beauty and harmony, music, finding a good doctor, lawyer, accountant, socializing, team-building, diplomacy, open enemies.



21 April Dark Moon in Taurus

The key phrase for Taurus is "I acquire". Taurus rules anything to do with money, sensuality, long-lasting love, devotion and steadfastness, dance, silence, wealth, and possessions. This is a good time to eliminate debt. Spells for prosperity, security, love, music and the arts, business, possessions, self-esteem, values and ethics, bindings, endurance, patience, fertility.

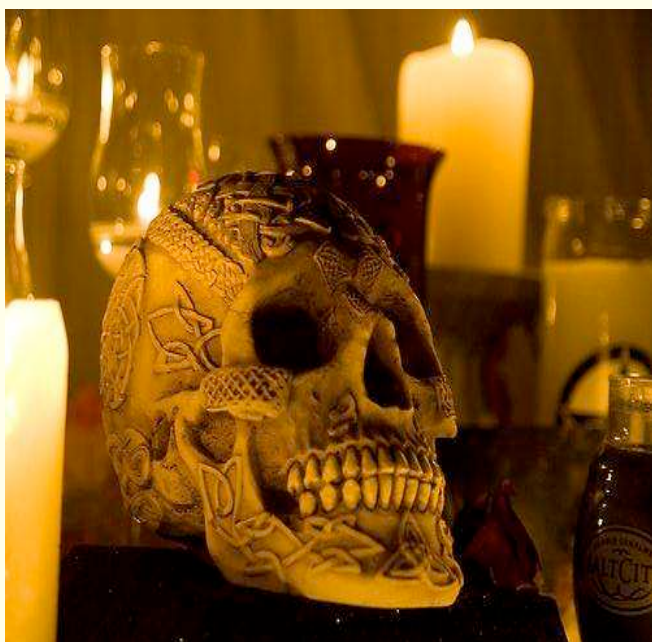


30 April – Samhain in Leo

The Pagan year begins with Samhain. It is a time of reflection, of looking back over the last year. This is the time when the boundary is thinnest between the worlds of living and dead; the powers of divination, the Sight, and supernatural communication are

strengthened on Samhain night, and it is considered a powerful time to communicate with lost loved ones. Pagans celebrate Samhain as an acknowledgment that without death, there can be no rebirth. At Samhain, the darkness increases and the Goddess reigns in her powerful aspect of the Crone. The God passes into the underworld to become reborn of the Goddess again at Yule. It is a time to honour those who have gone before.

Leo rules play, creativity, fine arts, and is an excellent sign to plan and create a profound Samhain ritual.



Ritual for the Dead

In a sacred space, ground & centre.

"White Sage" is burned to appease the spirits of Summerland

Carve the initials of your lost loved one(s) on a black candle, "dress" the candle in autumn or special Samhain oil.

Add favourite elements of that loved one to your altar, such as flowers, wine, favourite foods etc.

Read each name (from Remembrance list).

Gather a cauldron or other fire proof vessel and burn a dried "Bay Leaf" for each name of honour.

A dried "Rosemary" bundle is burned at end to "Remember" them all.

You may then save all the ashes, hardened candle drippings, left over herbs and add them to a black cloth or bag.

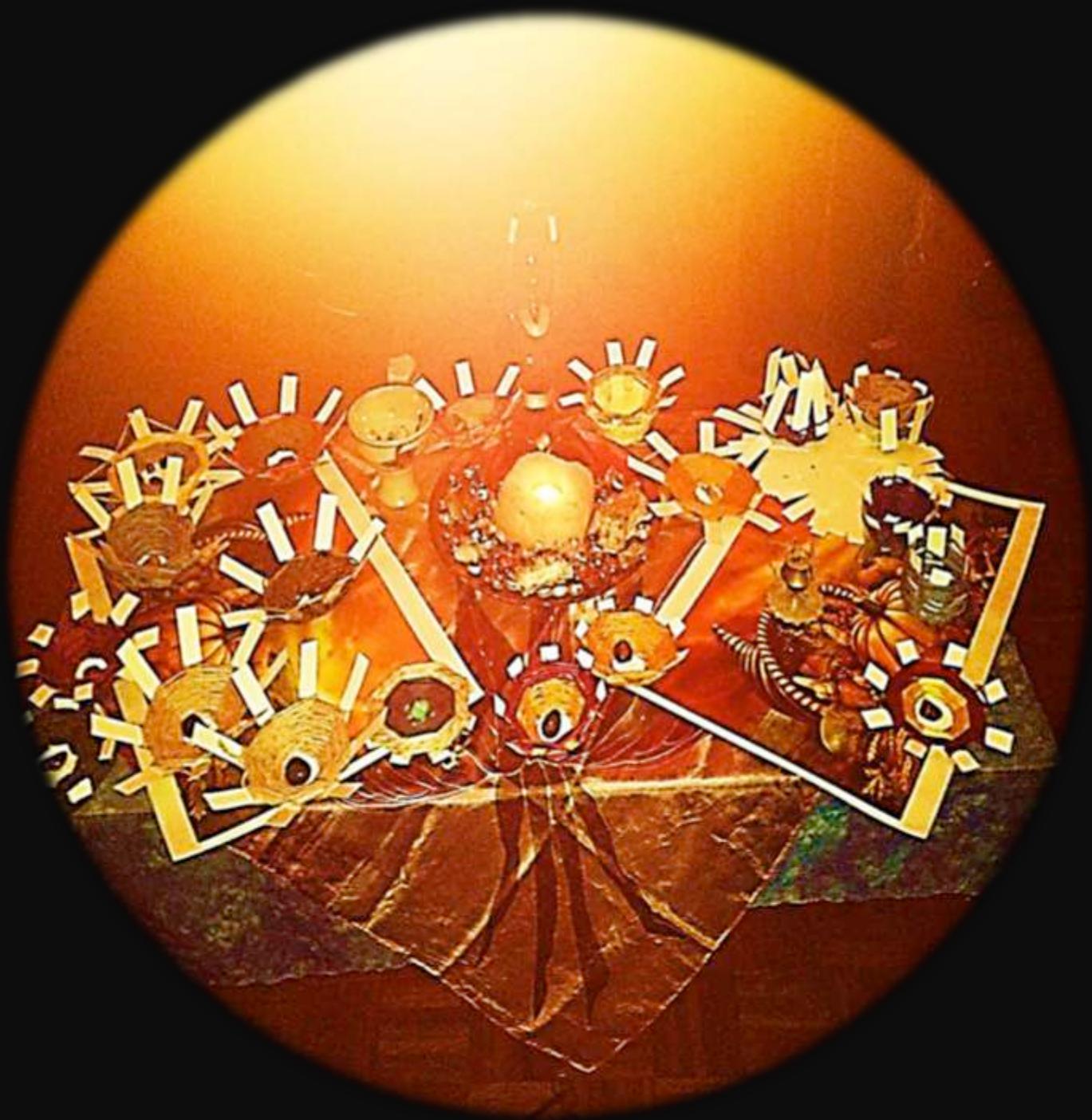
This is an amulet and can be worn or saved in honour.

Do NOT let your Samhain candle burn out, as it is considered bad luck on Samhain, let it burn at least till morning light, if need be, use additional black candles. BUT please keep candles in a safe place!

~ Barbara Morris

<http://www.moonsmuses.com/samhaintraditions.html>





SOL's FULL MOON CIRCLE

FULL MOON IN VIRGO - FRIDAY 2 MARCH 2012

"All things bear fruit according to the nature."

Virgo represents the stage in the cycle when the soul's experience is focused on assimilation of knowledge. In this phase matter is organized, purified and refined into specific and recognizable objects.

We have harvested our fields. Now it's time to use what was harvested to begin our own healing, by cleansing ourselves and giving thanks for our blessings.

At our Full Moon circle the goddess Fortuna and the god Jupiter were asked to attend and lend their power to the rite.

"Goddess Fortuna, Giver of abundance, your horn of plenty overflows, we invite thee, in this time of change, to bless our fortune, to bless our way..."

"Lord Jupiter, Sky Father, in your wisdom and truth, Expand our awareness, to wealth and abundance, and the joy it brings".

Goddess Fortuna and God Jupiter, represent the harvest, a time of reaping what you have sown, and the time to sow the seeds for next harvest.

The god and goddess were both represented in the wheel. The wheel of Fortuna is symbolic of the cycles of life and her ability to perpetuate a fluid motion in the business of living it.

According to the Tarot, The planet of the wheel of fortune card is Jupiter, the planet of opportunity, growth, success, and expansion. Part of the exercise on the night was for each person to weave a wheel using cardboard and wool. "As you weave the wheel, think of all that you are grateful for, your friends, your family, your mobility, your knowledge, your skills, your wealth, in whatever form it may take. Wealth and prosperity are not always measured in monetary terms.

As you continue weaving ask the Goddess Fortuna and the God Jupiter to bless our life with abundance and joy."

"You too are a weaver of joy, showering abundance on others. These opportunities assist in your growth and expand that which is truly abundant in your life."

Once the wheel was completed, we placed a crystal within the wheel and were asked to tap into its energies.



"Tap into the crystals energy and let it speak to you. It may give insight into how to bring balance, healing, self-worth, confidence, wealth, joy, creativity, deep self-knowledge, solace of the spirit, prosperity, etc. All types of wellbeing into your essence."

After the meditation on the Goddess Fortuna we shared our experiences and then we thanked the Goddess, the God, and the elements for attending our rite.

Wheels are found all over the world, in Germany wheels are carried for luck, it is still used in Hindu and Buddhist iconography. And the eight spokes in the wheel represent the Universal radiant energy, as well as the eight Sabbats of the year.



Fruits & Vegetables of the Season - April

We tend to take the seasons of the year very much for granted, viewing it calendrically rather than from an energy viewpoint. Yet there is an energy-cycle to the year, and without being aware of it we miss out on the undertow of life and omit to use the available energy and the resources of the seasons that are the food to our soul and our bodies .

If we moved more in harmony with the seasons of life, we would move more in harmony with each other as well, and life would unfold more organically, more in phase with overall energy-conditions.

April - mid autumn - fruit

apples aba, bonza - braeburn - cox's orange pippins - fuji - gala - golden delicious - granny smith - jonagold - jonathan - mutso - red delicious - snow, banana, cumquat, custard apple, feijoa, figs, grapes - muscat - purple cornichon - sultana - waltham cross, guava, kiwifruit, lemons. limes, mandarin - imperial, nashi, nuts - almond - chestnut - hazelnut - peanut - pistachio - walnut, orange - valencia, papaya, passionfruit, pears - beurre bosc - howell - josephine - packham - red sensation

- williams, persimmon, plums, pomegranate, quince, rhubarb.

April - mid autumn - vegetables

asian greens - bok choy - choy sum - gai laan
- wonga bok, avocado - fuerte, beans - green
- snake, beetroot, broccoli, brussels sprout, cabbage, capsicum, carrots, celery, chilli, cucumber, daikon, eggplant, fennel, garlic, ginger, leek, lettuce, mushrooms - wild - field
- pine - slippery jacks, okra, olives, onions - brown - spring, parsnip, peas, potato, pumpkin, shallot, silverbeet, spinach, squash, sweet potato, swede, tomato, turnip, zucchini.

Pumpkin, leek & spinach quiche



Photography by Mark O'Meara

A no-crust quiche is light, low carb and perfect for breakfast, lunch or dinner.

Preparation Time

10 minutes

Cooking Time - 45 minutes

Ingredients (serves 4)

700g butternut pumpkin, peeled, cut into 2cm pieces

Olive Oil Spray

1 leek, pale section only, halved lengthways, washed, dried, and thinly sliced crossways

2 garlic cloves, crushed
100g baby spinach leaves

4 eggs

2 egg whites

60ml (1/4 cup) skim milk

80g (1/3 cup) fresh low-fat ricotta

1/3 cup fresh basil leaves

Mixed salad leaves (optional), to serve

Method

Preheat oven to 200°C. Line a large baking tray with non-stick baking paper. Place the pumpkin on the lined tray and spray with olive oil spray. Season with pepper. Bake in oven for 25 minutes or until golden.

Meanwhile, heat a large non-stick frying pan over medium heat. Spray lightly with olive oil spray to grease. Add the leek and cook, stirring occasionally, for 5 minutes or until soft. Add the garlic and cook, stirring, for 1 minute or until soft. Add the spinach and cook, stirring, for 3 minutes or until the spinach just wilts.

Line a 26 x 16cm (base measurement) slab pan with non-stick baking paper. Spread the pumpkin and leek mixture evenly over the base of the pan.

Whisk together the eggs, egg whites and milk in a jug. Pour egg mixture evenly over pumpkin and leek mixture. Sprinkle evenly with ricotta. Bake for 20 minutes or until puffed and golden. Sprinkle with the basil. Serve with mixed salad leaves, if desired.

Notes

This vegetarian dish with ricotta and sweet roasted pumpkin can be served hot or cold.

Reference:

<http://www.victoriaorganicdelivery.com.au/seasonalchart.php>

<http://www.taste.com.au/recipes/19478/pumpkin+leek+spinach+quiche>

Becoming Aware

When we become more 'Aware' we move into an inwardly-sounder harmony with the wheel of the year and life. It allows us to live our lives more effectively – not only from the standpoint of getting things done, but also from the standpoint of awakening ourselves.

By connecting to the season, we enhance our spiritual connection with nature and its changes can be enlightening and inspiring – allowing us to live in accord with all levels of our being. We cannot simply impose our will upon our bodies, on life or on the world, for the results end up being

disastrous with illness, confusion, things going 'wrong', meaninglessness and with feelings of total insecurity.

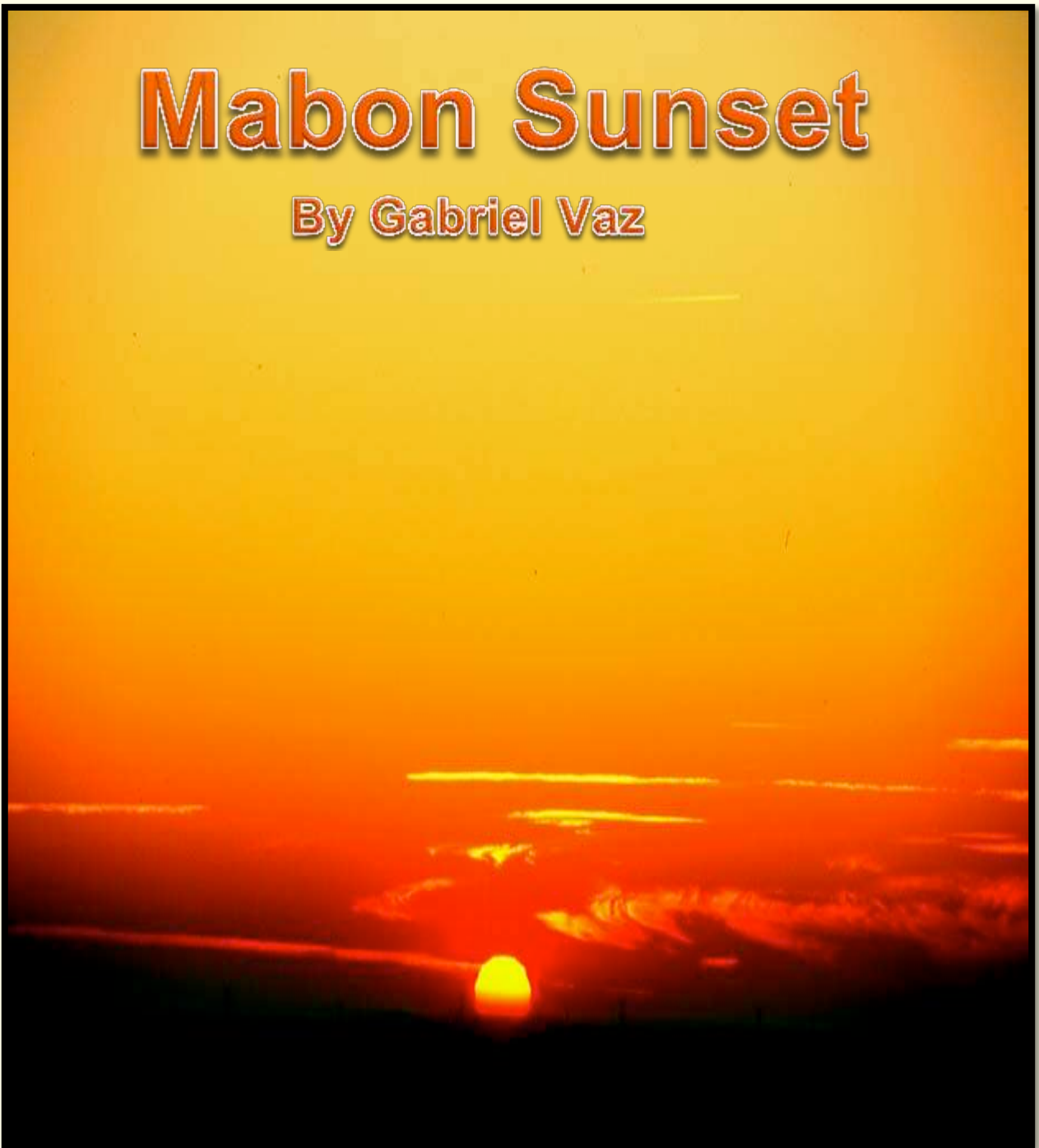
The new life which we are seeking (or being forced to by the cosmic evolution of expansion & contraction) has to do with rapport between what we want and what we've got, between intention and the subtle things of life, between the concepts of balance.

Moving into conscious participation with natural time-cycles has many implications which are immense and the only beginning place is awareness.

Sleeper Awaken!

Mabon Sunset

By Gabriel Vaz



It is 4:35pm as I get out of my car a block away from the local golf club. I am instantly blinded by the golden rays of the approaching Mabon sunset. Suspended just above the horizon, the astonishing majesty of Light demands my attention and I obey. Stepping backwards in awe and reverence for Lord Ra, our local Sun, I stand in the middle of the street bathed in a river of light. A barely warm breeze caresses my face and arms. As Air moves past me I am reminded that very soon it will roar with unbridled power and blow the summer leaves away. I create a mental note to remember this panorama as a

scene for meditation – I need to remember the beauty this moment.

In that instant I remembered the approach of the final harvest. I considered how many of us were now feeling a little weary from the excitement of the summer months. I remembered that soon, our bodies would begin to slow down, craving stillness, sleep-ins, long naps, and mouth-watering starchy meals more than usual. Our primal physiological response to the shorter days usually provokes an irresistible dreaminess that calls us to indulge in its hypnotic trance.

For me, the fall usually ignites a sense of urgency to tend to those nagging details that I have been avoiding for months. As I look back on the past three seasons and I can clearly see where I've been. All those loose ends that previously eluded me are now in sight. The enormity of projects started and the consequences of past decisions are now becoming clear. Gosh, I really am the creator of my reality, and even if I am not always in control of every external circumstance, I am definitely responsible for my reactions. So where will all this introspection lead me, I ask myself? In stillness I wait.

"Aah, yes." Faces and scenes of friends and workmates, strangers, neighbours, and loved ones appeared one by one, harmoniously blending and weaving into each other –a world of colour, thoughts and emotions which only I could ever see. Only I really know how I've perceived the external world. Only I really know how vulnerable I've felt and have often been, yet to others I've appeared with certainty, and in control. "Mmm," peoples gestures and words were not always attempts to control or deny me my voice, my space, my dreams.

"Oooo.. Fear!" Manick traffic jams, unpleasant office people, jammed packed trains, random bills and debt. Death and aging loved ones, chronic allergies, illnesses, silent despair and dis-repair. So much noise and clutter and adrenaline –Go, Go, Go, Go, Run, Now, Go!
White Silence

"Oh.. Oh.. Yes." Now that all those thoughts have passed I feel relief.

My heart beats, rocking my body. My breath obeys the prompt. I remember that glorious sunset suspended just for me.

"Aah, yes.. Gratitude." Elusive as it has often seemed, is behind my every breath and all that I see. I am alive. My body is healthy (I could care for it a little better than I do). I am to some degree, surrounded by people that care for me. I live in a western country and don't have to beg. I can choose my clothing. I sleep on a warm bed with both eyes closed because I am safe from the fierce human predators of the urban jungle. My mental health is fair and my senses allow me to explore my environment with little effort.

The golden harvest hum has had its way. I have reflected briefly on the harvest of my actions and my world. I am grateful for the chilling breeze, the coldness of the rain. I will wait, for soon the darkness comes, that fills my life with dreams, of sunny summer frolicking and sensual starry chasms of cicadas, crickets, and frogs.

Farewell summer of 2012, you filled my love with tender rain. I make another mental note –The thoughts and circumstances of my life are the children of the thoughts of all my yesterdays. I now decide to go forth a little wiser, and carefully select the attitude of future dreams, and store them carefully to later sow appropriately for golden future scenes.



Crone Inspiration

By Etain Butterfly

I work in an outpatient surgery center and I must share a story about a lively 92 year old Crone that came in for cataract surgery. As I was interviewing her I noticed she was really tan so I ask if she had been on vacation and she said with a gleam in her eyes "why yes, I just got back from visiting my son and his wife in Florida." I ask if she had a nice time and she chuckled and said "not really I thought they were boring. All they wanted to do was watch TV." I ask her what she would have liked to do and she answered "go parasailing on the beach, do some snorkeling to view the beautiful fish in the ocean, and to go horseback riding". Wow, what an amazing energetic view on what a vacation should be. She was so full of positive energy and love of life. I couldn't help thinking....."I want to be like that when I am her age". She was a 'Crone – Inspiration' and a joy to listen to. When it was my break time I sat with her in recovery room and listened to her views on life and the importance of keeping active.

When I look into the mirror I see some wrinkles representing the aging process. My step isn't like it was in my 20s; however some say it is hard to keep up with my pace. I don't dwell on the changes happening to my body. I embrace the gift of living and all that the God and Goddess have allowed me to experience. I don't sit home watching TV – I am out adding new experiences to my long list of things to do. Right now I am concentrating on Poi, and learning a new Tarot deck, and being a Crone mentor for

the maidens and mothers that are all around me.

I am Crone and I am a proud Crone. I have been on a journey of self-discovery for many, many years. I have learned many things as I have traveled on my true path of life. I have made mistakes; learned by those mistakes and moved on. I have learned to be more kind, show more compassion, learn to listen more and speak less. I have learned to share my life's experiences. I am a Crone, I am a wise Crone, and most importantly I am a Happy Crone.

I wrote this poem to express what being a Crone means to me.....

**I am Crone
By Etain©**

**I am Crone
I have learned to Know
I have wisdom to share and
show**

**I am Crone
I have learned to Will
Manifest for goodwill**

**I am Crone
I have learned to Dare
It's energizing I do declare**

**I am Crone
I have learned to Keep Silent
My happiness is reliant**

The Origins of the Green Man



A Green Man is a sculpture, drawing, or other representation of a face surrounded by or made from leaves. Branches or vines may sprout from the nose, mouth, nostrils or other parts of the face and these shoots may bear flowers or fruit. Commonly used as a decorative architectural ornament, Green Men are frequently found on carvings in churches and other buildings (both secular and ecclesiastical).



The Green man is as old as four thousand years. He has become intertwined in so many folk tales with "Jack in the Green", "John Barleycorn" but each and every "Green Man" is different in the way the craftsman or the age interpreted him.

The deity we know as the Green Man has a long worldwide history. In the Indus religion he is the 'Green Thing', in ancient Babylon myth he bears the name, Tammuz. Elsewhere in the Islamic faith he is Ilyas, in Greece, Dionysus; in Sweden, the Pflingstl; 'Green George' is his European name and locally, in the British Isles, he is known variously as Green George, Jack-in-the-Green or Jack-in-the-Bush; the Green Man, Lord of the Forest and Robin Hood. He also has strong connections with Herne the Hunter, Cernunnos, and also in the stories of King Arthur as the fearsome Green Knight who Gawain encounters. In the late Iron Age this deity was known to the Celtic population of Britain as Erriapus and on the continent of Europe as Esus. Under both names, images of this deity have been found on Celtic stone and metalwork as a head emerging from foliage.

So many amazingly designed images of the same icon, created all over the world long before communication could have influenced the earliest copies bear testament to a strong and long held belief.

Green men are found in so many places once you start looking. I found my wooden Green Man in the gift shop at Westminster Abbey and was amazed that such a pagan icon could be sold in a christian church.

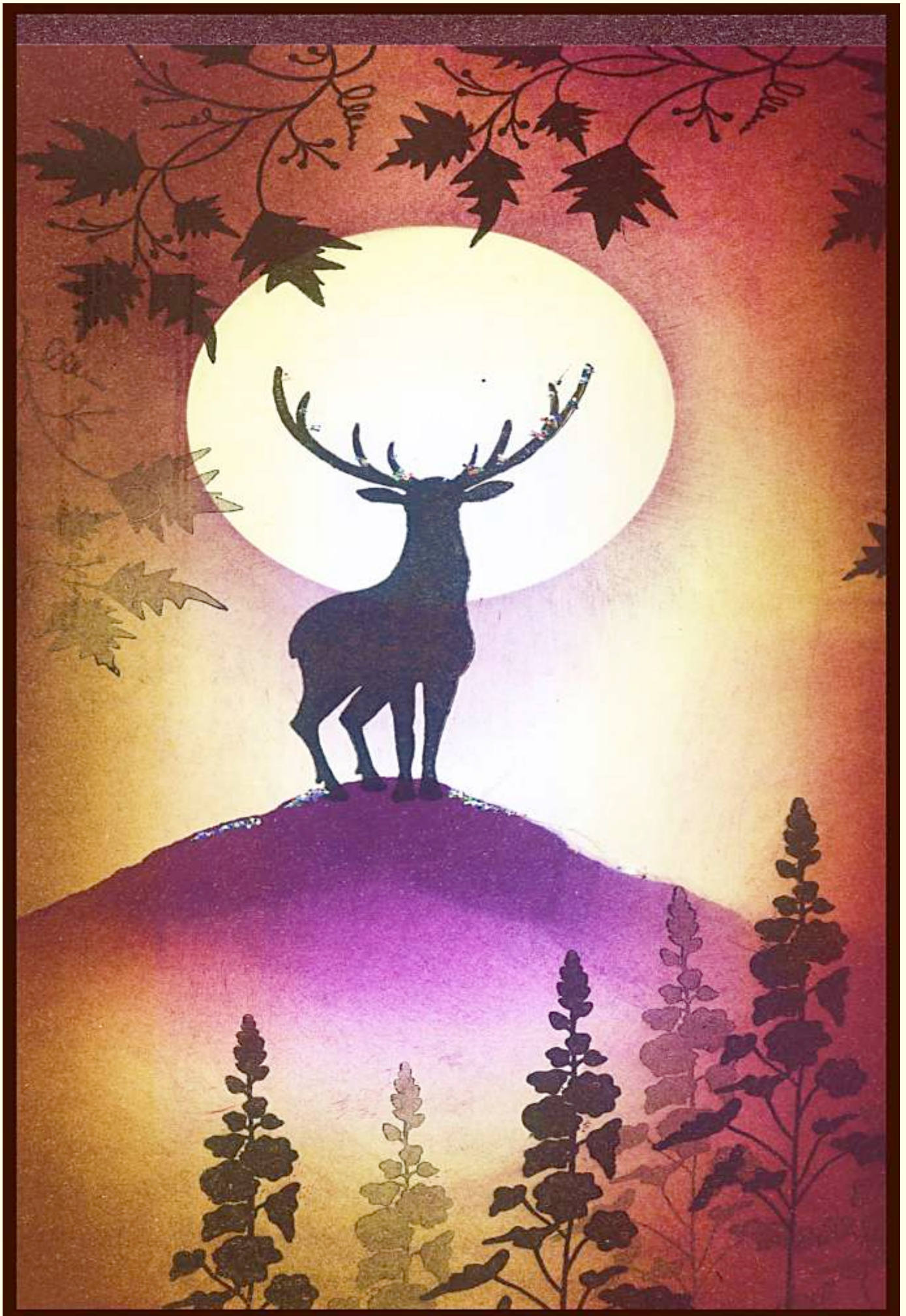


In fact when you wander around the many cathedrals in the UK you can see the Green Man carved into the walls. He is even widespread in comparatively modern cathedrals as St Paul's and Notre Dame. Green Men can be found all around the world.

In Roslin Chapel, the Templar church south of Edinburgh, there are over a hundred Green Men. Where other pagan symbols were crushed under the weight of iconoclastic Christianity the sacred tree, the vine and the oak survived along with the Green Man.

The "Green Man" is remembered as a symbol of an ancient spirit of Nature, recognized and revered by many civilizations and adopted by many religions. He is the symbol of the eternal cycle of Nature, the mysterious figure who dies and is reborn each year. He is a part of interwoven beliefs and customs associated with ploughing and sowing, with harvest and the autumn slaughter of beasts – the seeming death of Nature in winter, followed by the miracle of rebirth in the Spring.

References: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Green_Man
http://web.clearnetworks.com.au/~wyrnwood/paganm/en/essays/greenman_factsheet.htm



The Stag as a Power Animal

In Celtic mythology the stag is linked to the sacredness of the magical forest. The stag represents independence, purification, and pride. It is known as the King of the Forest, the protector of its creatures.

In the Royal National Park in the Sutherland Shire, Sydney, there are a large number of Rus deer that were introduced to Australia from Indonesia about a hundred years ago. Although they cause some incredible damage to the natural environment I can't help but admire these regal creatures.

Living in the shire I have had several encounters with the Stag and they always seem to connect with me when there are some boundary issues that I need to address.

For time immemorial people have sought to identify with the stag by ceremonially wearing antlered headdresses and imitating the deer's leaping grace. The stag is also a symbol of the God's warrior spirit, of his virility, fertility and of his role as protector.



Great God, Horned One of the forests and wild places, Lord of the Sun, Bringer of warmth and light; "You who run with the swift stag, soar with the birds in the sky, and protect all the Mother's children; You who are born of the Goddess, Her lover and Her son, as are all men..."

So the next question is what is the message here? Symbolically the stag stands for solitary nobility, honour and a strong commitment to the protection of their herd. They are extremely devoted to the care, and creation, of children. Stags focus on the balance of law and are rigid in their thinking on the issues of justice.

I do know that much like the stag, I take pride in my independence and perhaps the message here is that I need to tap more into that male energy and utilize it to help me deal with some of the challenges and commitment issues I am currently facing especially with the major changes that will be presenting in my life over the next few months.

As the antlers of the stag reach up to the sky, they also remind me not to be afraid to reach for higher levels of spirituality and to trust in my sense of intuition, my perceptions, and my inner thoughts and judgement. These are all characteristics of the deer, lessons that he teaches us, lessons to be gentle, to protect and touch the hearts and minds of the wounded beings that are in our lives. Characteristics that represent ways of reaching goals other than by force. Showing leadership attributes by not pushing people to change, rather gently nudging them in the right direction; remembering to balance that need for power and control with recognition of the importance of love, compassion, service and community.

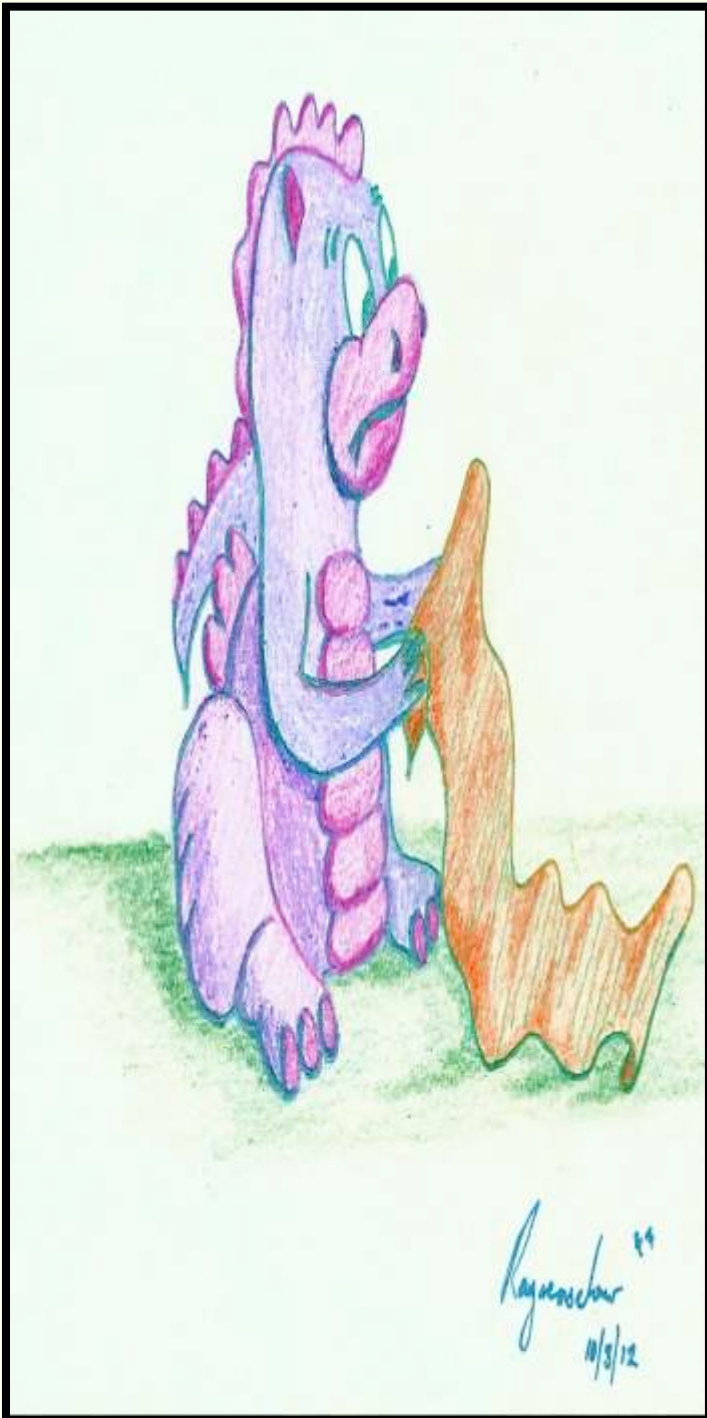
References:

<http://www.shamanicjourney.com/article/6025/deer-power-animal-symbol-of-gentleness-unconditional-love-and-kindness>
<http://innergoth.com/ephemeron.html>

The Tales of Little Purple Part 9B

OR

MY TIMETABLE ABCs By Amethyst



Well what did you think of the letters so far that Little Purple has to attend! Well here is the rest of his timetable. How do you think you would go studying all these.....

F: is for Fire and Flame – See B

G: is for Goods and Chattels, how to acquire said same

H: is for Hazards, Humans and Haulage (Little Purple is excused the last)

I: is for Invisibility when humans are about - See H

J: is for Jumping between places far and near – See C

K: is for Knowledge, history and such – See P

L: is for Literature, a broad mind to reveal

M: is for Magick – See D, H & S

N: is for Nursing, the care and healing of self

O: is for Other, i.e. Creatures & Worlds – See R

P: is for Policing and Protocol, learning the rules and regs – See K & X

Q: is for Quenching, said fire and flame – See F

R: is for Royalty, Kings & Queens – See O

S: is for Spells, casting about – See D, H, I & M

T: is for The 3 R's – Reading, Riting & Rithmetic – See everything else

U: is for Unusual – just about everything there

V: is for Velocity, speed is its other name – See A, D, E, F, H, I, J & W

W: is for Weapons, for defence and attack – See D

X: is for X, don't go there – See P

Y: is for Yodelling and Yachting, sports and such

Z: is for Graduation, congratulations you have made it this far you see

I wonder how long it will take Little Purple to get from A to Z. It should be quite interesting to see!

Come to the Darkside

Samhain

27-29 April 2012

This is a weekend where you can withdraw from the routines, pressures and addictions of modern living into the solitude of the darker side of your soul.

The spiritual retreat will be divided between instruction, hands-on exercises, periods of silence and meditation in natural power spots. Enjoy a weekend of just "being" in a place of seclusion between the worlds.

When: 6pm Friday 27 to 3pm Sun 29 April 2012

Where: Southern Sydney, Australia. Full details and address will be sent to you via email once you have made a booking.

Cost: \$130 includes accommodation all meals and notes. Please note numbers are limited.

If you would like further information phone Janine on 0408 025 268 or email:

inquiries@spheresoflight.com.au

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Crystal – Aquamarine

By Maria

This has been a month of such emotional upheaval, that water element being so out of balance, no peace within, or calmness of self, mind and body. Feeling emotionally drained.

Then in comes this stone to bring me back into balance. Well at least make me aware of what is it I need to work on to get past this point of emotional chaos.

This stone's power includes: psychism, peace, purification and courage. It also has moon and water connections.

This crystal is sometimes referred to as "Water of the Sea" due to its seawater (blue-

green) colour. Most of us know this stone as aquamarine. It is part of the Beryl family.

Aquamarine has a long association to the sea. Legend says aquamarine is the treasure of mermaids. Sailors and fisherman carry aquamarine as a special amulet for protection while out on the waters.

So if travelling by water or over it, tuck a piece of aquamarine in your belongings for that extra protection.

Aquamarine relates to the water element and it's associated with the Moon, both of which rule our emotions and intuition.

Aquamarine calms emotions, brings clarity of mind and peace. Use aquamarine for deep meditation. It assists to attain that calmness and peace needed to enhance your meditative experience. By stilling the mind its power of the psyche is enhanced. Wear a piece of aquamarine jewellery or carry a piece for this connection.

Aquamarine's colour of blue-green gives one a sense of peace. It's the colour of clear water and of the sky on a calm and serene day. Therefore looking into the depths of this stone brings your being into a calmness that is felt throughout. That sense of peace is reached to the depths and heights of all that is. Another name for aquamarine is The Serene One.



We know that water is a cleansing and purification substance, so for that extra boost place a piece of aquamarine in your bath water. You can also make an elixir by placing a piece of aquamarine in water and leaving it out in the moonlight for a few days before drinking it.

Aquamarine is associated with the throat chakra. This chakra is about expression and communication, of both verbal and non-verbal, and associated with the picking up of thoughts. If this energy area is balanced our communication is expressed thoughtfully we are aware of what we are communicating, if out of balance this communication is unclear, to others and ourselves.

Aquamarine brings balance back to this chakra; it assists in communicating our thoughts by speaking our truth, without being insensitive to others.

It is said that Aquamarine is a stone of courage and inspiration. Well it did both. I only realised later that I had a piece in my work bag, I had completely forgotten it was there.

I certainly spoke the truth, yelled it; truth be told. I affirmed to myself and the universe of my intention, I had accepted that responsibility of change. It took some courage on my part to finally verbalise my need. It's amazing the clarity one receives when affirming your truth. They say "the truth can set you free". I so agree.

Aquamarine, as noted, has a strong connection to the throat chakra therefore it helps alleviate symptoms in this area. The thymus gland, throat, jaw, teeth will all benefit from the use of this stone. It also assists kidneys, spleen, and stomach plus assisting in controlling fluid retention.

Wearing a necklace is one way to sooth this area.

Aquamarine can be purchased in gem quality which can be costly, or in its crystal form as a tumbled stone.

References:

Illustrated Guide to Crystals, Judy Hall
Gemstones of the World, Walter Schumann
Crystal, Gem & Metal Magic, Scott Cunningham
www.crystalwellbeing.co.uk/catalogueitemsaquamarine.php
www.mysticfamiliar.com/library/crystals/aquamarine.html
www.shamanscrystal.co.uk/crystal/351/aquamarine/

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2012
Witches Ball
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September 2012



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Early Witch price available until mid-January.

\$500/\$450 which includes accommodation, food and all teaching. (After mid-Jan, \$550/\$500)

Website and Registration:

www.cloudcatcherwitchcamp.com.au

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Enquiries: jane@janemeredith.com

EarthSong WitchCamp

healesville, VIC



1ST - 6TH OCTOBER, 2012

EarthSong will be a six-day intensive program in the Reclaiming Tradition of Witchcraft for newcomers & experienced folk alike. It includes deep exploration of a chosen path, with time to connect and reflect, culminating in evening rituals that take us into the heart of ancient tales, creating a powerful, transformational energy that builds throughout the Camp.

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Register now at <http://earthsong.australiareclaiming.org.au/>
for an Early Bird offer that expires in March
for more information: earthsong@australiareclaiming.org.au



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HERB - MUGWORT

Latin Name: *Artemisia vulgaris*.

Places Of Origin : Europe, Asia, North and South America

Habitat: Can be found in waste places, ditches, bushy areas, and along roadsides and fences.

Description: Mugwort is a perennial plant. The downy, grooved stems grow from 1 to 5 feet tall and bear alternate, pinnate leaves that are green on top and downy beneath. The leaflets are linear to spatulate and coarsely toothed. In addition, there is a basal rosette of pinnate leaves that survive the winter.

USES:

Mugwort promotes the appetite and proper digestion by its beneficial effect on bile production, and it acts as a mild purgative. A decoction is sometimes used to regulate menstruation. It has also been used as a bath additive for gout, rheumatism, and tired legs.

Gender: Feminine.

Planet: Venus.

Element: Earth.

Powers: Strength, Psychic Powers, Protection, Prophetic Dreams, Healing, Astral Projection

Magical Uses:

A pillow stuffed with Mugwort and slept upon will produce prophetic dreams. Mugwort is also burned with sandalwood or wormwood during scrying rituals, and a Mugwort infusion is drunk (sweetened with honey) before divination.

The infusion is also used to wash crystal balls and magic mirrors, and Mugwort leaves are placed around then base of the ball (or beneath it) to aid in psychic workings.



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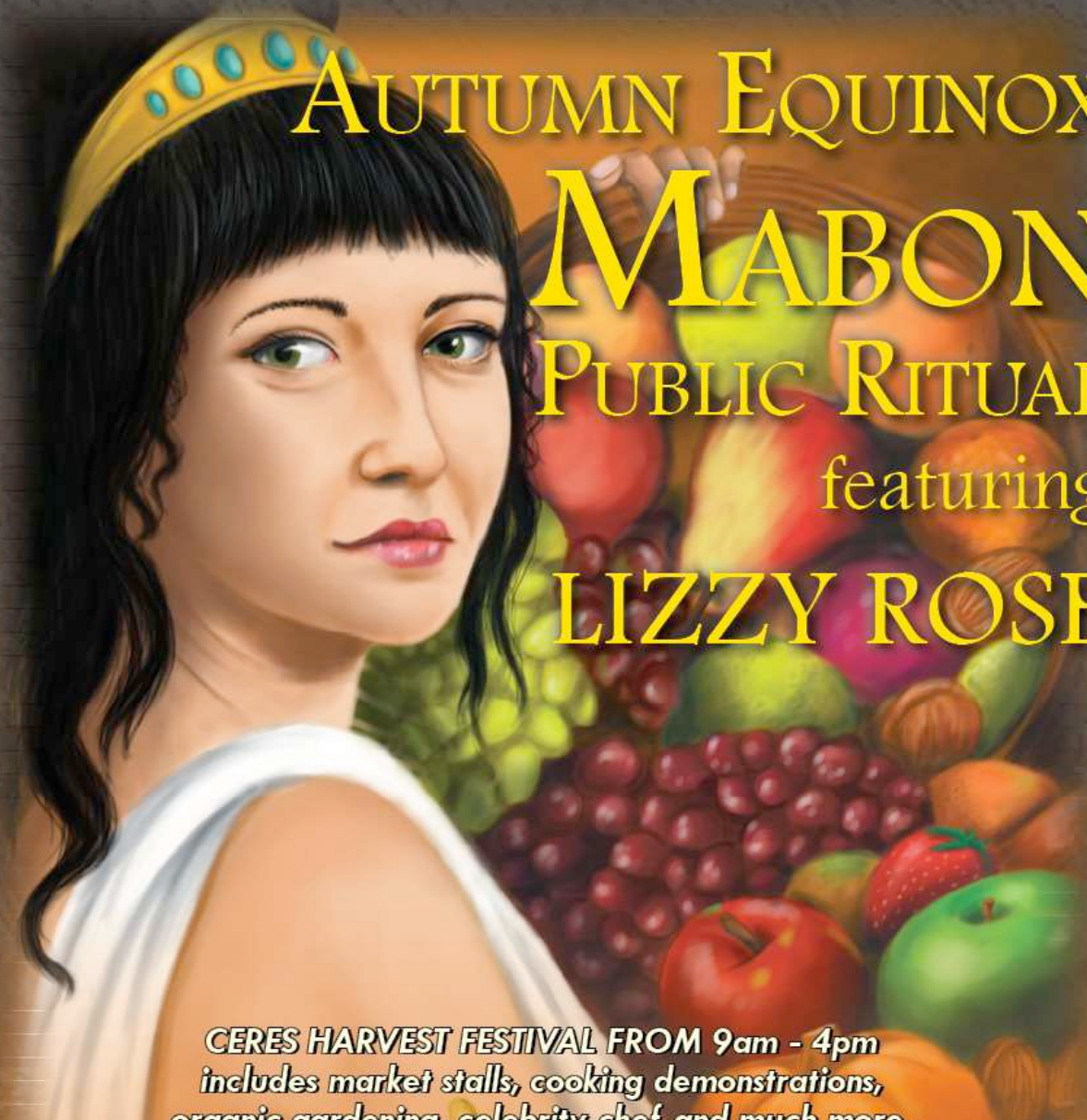
Janine Donnellan from Spheres Of Light & SOuL Searchers can conduct a private space clearing in your home or business. Janine will clear negative or stagnant energetic 'imprints' built up over the years from the accumulation of day to day living and from previous occupants, replacing them with Love, Abundance, Prosperity, Good Health & Happiness.

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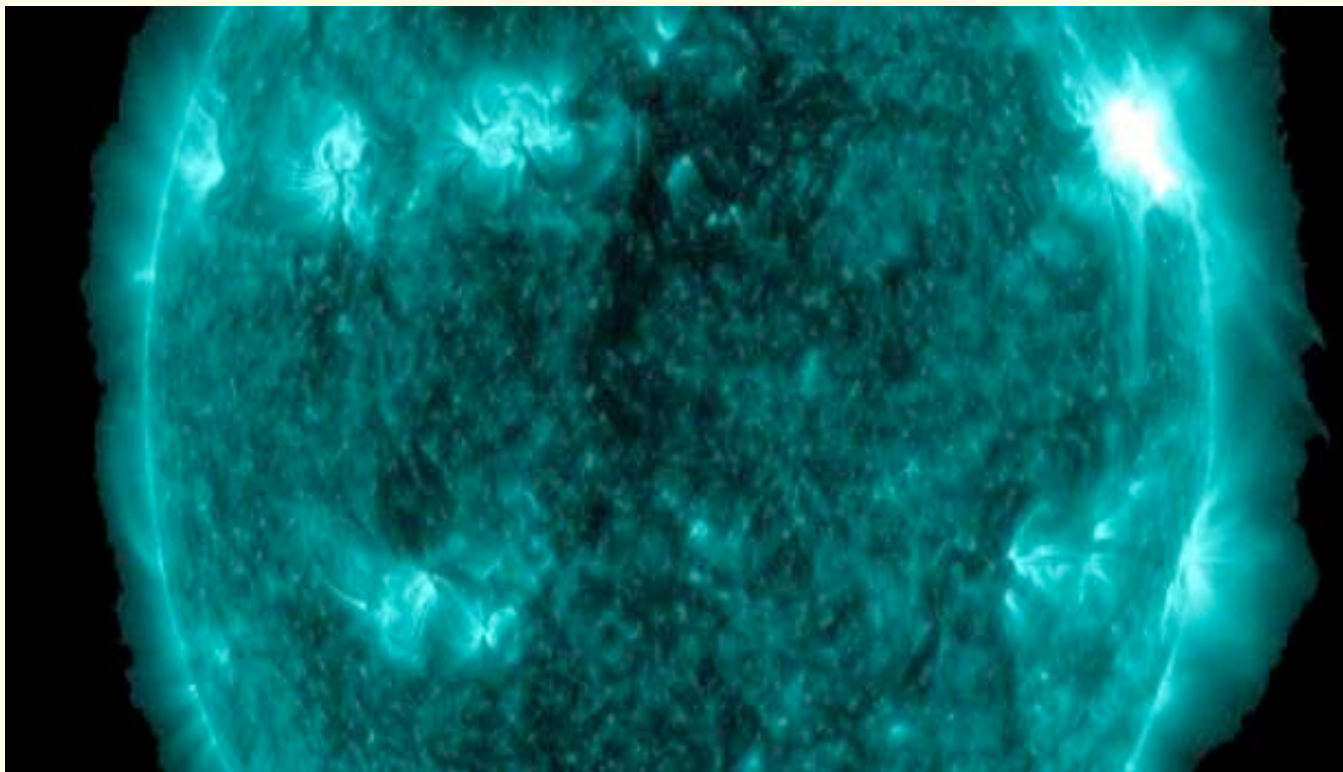
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Aries Ingress 2012



Sun flare image – NASA
http://www.nasa.gov/mission_pages/sunearth/news/flare-20120313.html

Aries Ingress 2012 – March 20th UTC

On March 20 UTC 2012 the Sun returns to the beginning of the zodiac as it enters the sign of Aries. A long-held tradition of astrologers is to look at the year ahead by analysing the chart cast for what is known as the Aries Ingress, the exact time the Sun enters the sign of Aries. At this Ingress we also celebrate one of the equinoxes, when the Sun moves from the South to the North crossing the Equator and defining the beginning of the seasons of spring in the North and autumn in the South.

The Aries Ingress for last year (2011) featured an exact Sun/Uranus conjunction at 0° Aries right at the beginning of the zodiac and a Moon/Saturn conjunction in the sign of Libra opposite Mercury and Jupiter also in Aries. This promised a year of rising passions and radical shifts; a year of upheaval, during which we witnessed the ousting of dictators, nuclear threats and the

rise of the Occupy movement, the radical agents protesting and standing up for themselves against the establishment, corporations and governmental control. See Aries ingress 2011

This year the flavour is similar as Uranus, still at the beginning of the zodiac, is joined by the Sun, although a few further degrees apart, this time making room for a retrograde Mercury in between. The Moon is conjunct Neptune, which has only recently entered Pisces to stay for the next 14 years.



The Sun represents our collective vision, conscious growth and enlightenment, but also those we reward and elect as representatives (supposedly!) of the people, which were monarchs, emperors and heroes in the past and now translate to Presidents, prime ministers, despots and dictators. The Moon represents the people, the feelings of the collective and their sense of security.

With Mercury retrograde between radical Uranus and the Sun at this ingress, our views in general in regard to world governance are skewed and unsettled: in whom do we trust? The Sun is also physically restless at the moment bursting out constant Sun flares, adding symbolically to our attitudes towards Leaders throughout the world. We won't be seeing change as quickly as we'd like this year with this connection, there is so much to re-evaluate before things move on and change quick enough for the better. Electing better representatives that help lead us forward, or show signs of enlightened thinking would be a welcome change. We just heard that Julian Assange, will be running for the Australian senate, look forward to hearing more on that issue, there is hope for us yet!

So much to review with Mercury retrograde at such an important turning point in the year. Interestingly Mercury retrogrades or Mercury stations at an Aries Ingress happen every 6 years sometimes for two years in a row, last times were 2005 and 2006. Everywhere we look this year we see signs of Mercury, with eclipses in Gemini, Mercury ruled as well as the rare Transit of Venus happening with Venus' next retrograde loop in the sign of Gemini. The Transit a 105-120 year cycle and the retrograde loop in the sign of Gemini being an 8 year cycle. This rare transit is a sure sign to reevaluate, reassign, reconfigure, re-do, re-adjust, re-think and re-program ourselves with what's most important in this world. A retrograde Venus is Venus in the underworld, confronted to face her demons, let go and start afresh. On a world scale this seems highly significant. With the fixed star Regulus also having moved recently into Virgo, are we truly being challenged to lighten up, and lighten up from such destructive material dependence, as the return of Quetzalcoatl in 2012 suggests. The feathered

serpent being a representative of mind over matter.

2013 seems activated for faster change when Mars meets Uranus at 6 and 7 Aries for the Aries Ingress. This year Mars is also retrograde and is in mutual reception with Mercury as they are both in each other's signs and retrograde. Although we will no doubt see some radical, unexpected and new developments that surprise and shock us take place again this year with the Sun conjunct Uranus, there is an indicator that many issues we'd like to see move on and be resolved, finalised and finally change or shift, will be taking their time. Building our new world needs to be cleverly thought through. Some have the answers, but are the right people listening?

Expect more scandals and covers-ups, as well as many more people voicing their opinions. With a balsamic Moon conjunct Neptune, people are perceptive and aware of more than they are given credit for, but are also feeling cheated and deprived as though much is being taken from them, yet they continue with spiritual hope. We are ready to collude and take on supportive if not sacrificial roles to build a better world. We have a strong urge to build and plant the seed for what comes next, knowing that the seed is still a while away from sprouting. A balsamic Moon waning, between Neptune and Chiron, brings the many themes we have been dealing with to the fore, we feel the pain, we feel like letting go, we feel like giving up, we feel like screaming, sometimes it seems hopeless but we also feel like we could sacrifice much for a better world.. The collective spirit has arisen and continues to grow, we have set it alight and it is imperative to trust in the process, not to give up but to continue to believe in the possibilities of change. Our spiritual yearnings take hold and keep those who are willing strong as Saturn continues to trine in on Neptune's quest.

A trine from Uranus to the Moon's north node shows there is progress on some fronts, where we are heading is a focus. Uranus feeds the Nodes squared by Mars and exactly opposes Chiron; we all somehow don't fit with the agendas laid out for us.

Mars is fighting in a different way: opposite Chiron our differences, our points of view, our attitudes on how to heal the state we are in stem from so many different fronts and motives, how do we compromise? The square of these two pained planets challenged by the Nodes suggests we need to review the direction in which we are heading and take on a different approach. Perhaps we do need to fight more, stand up more for what is important, and go out on a limb. So much just goes on above and over our heads and we need to act lest we be left behind, to act because we've been hurt before, and to act so we won't be hurt as badly again.

To top it off Ceres and Eris combine at the exact degree at 21 Aries. We can all identify to some extent with feeling left out of the decisions being made for all of us, or not being let in on what's really going on, not being told everything we feel we should know. We aren't invited to take part, speak up, or are even listened to, as things like fracking continue to destroy our earth, being just one serious example. At least the two determined feminine archetypes join forces, to consolidate strength this year. Strife and determination is part of their make-up and giving in is not one of their options. It seems that Eris came to consciousness as the goddess who upset the apple cart of planetary hierarchy, after her discovery in 2003. The goddess of strife and discord, consequently demoting Pluto and promoting Ceres. Eris is also known for making mountains out of molehills creating and causing havoc and making things bigger than they are. Maybe it is just what we need to wake us up further, or to be heard. Make a commotion, make some noise, and be noticed: we can't rest until we see more effective change. With Neptune in Pisces maybe more will be done with a more passionate backing, not just activism from our fingertips on computers, but with a more powerful collective voice. Be inspired by the drive and tenaciousness of both Eris and Ceres in Aries.

A grand trine in Earth, having just perfected at 9° Earth signs, is still in effect and shows a year bursting for change but stuck in a rut. Rewards will be felt in some places,

determination and strength hold us in place, but the stability of an Earth trine is not as stable as we'd like, with Pluto and Mars both retrograde. Jupiter and Venus accentuate greed and holding onto what we have, or they have, many get away with murder, as others continue to struggle to stay alive. Money is still a grand motivator and not something that attitudes will be changing on too fast, the power of money holds power over the imagination and makes it very hard to move on from material dependence. This is a signal to lighten up our burden and perhaps a portent of the changes to the structure of the planet itself.

The Black Moon Lilith joins Jupiter at this Equinox. As Jupiter and Venus continue to put on a gorgeous evening sky show, till Jupiter disappears into the Sun's beams in late April, don't forget Lilith stands close by. The Black Moon is a point of power, an invisible focal point, and a node of the Moon's elliptical orbit around the Earth. The Black Moon Lilith represents a bold and brazen feminine archetype that doesn't give in to male domination and strives for equality. Lilith is the ancient feminine power of creation, growth, decay and destruction and represents a strong force of self-empowerment. Traveling closely with Jupiter over the next few months, she is part of the earthly line up and represents the rise in feminine wisdom, as she stands by Jupiter. As Venus moves toward maximum elongation by the end of March, showing off her real beauty, we grasp the need for aesthetics, love and beauty in our own lives and the troubled world around us. Trans-formative Pluto and Mars the warrior, also aligned in the Earth trine give us all motivation to go forth and do what must be done.

The Astro Cartography Map for the Aries Ingress shows where planets rise set and culminate around the globe. The Uranus, Sun, Mercury rx conjunction shows up on the IC for Washington DC, on the MC in China, rising in central Europe (with Pluto on the MC in Greece) and setting in the Pacific over Hawaii. Other hotspots with the Mars Chiron, and Moon Neptune lines intersecting quite closely, through middle USA and Mexico City MC – IC axis, reversed in India. Venus, Black

Moon and Jupiter rise over the Middle East and Syria, with Saturn close to Israel

for doing so. Don't give up, the signs are there and by sticking together, building global consciousness, it can be done!

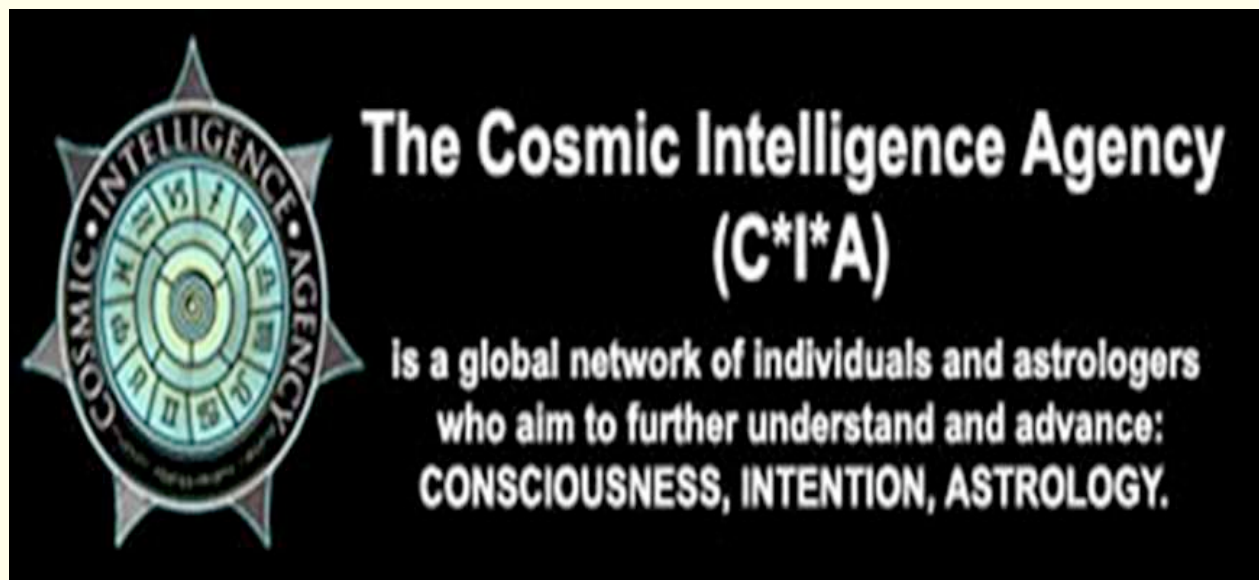


ACG World Map of Aries Ingress 2012. 20 March 2012, 5:16am UTC.

As the blessings of the grand Earth trine present themselves during the year amongst the doubt and radical shifts, what we have been working towards, letting go of or moving on from now take a firm hold and reward us

Do Join the Venus Mission – 5-6th June 2012 a rare event and a rare opportunity to build on our Cosmic Consciousness.

<http://www.cosmicintelligenceagency.com/2011/09/the-venus-mission/>





CONNECTING WITH YOUR SPIRIT GUIDE WORKSHOP

Sunday 1st April 2012



This is a two hour workshop where we will discuss the various kinds of spirit guides that one can have, how to find them, communicate with them, and develop a working relationship with them.

We will work shamanically with a guided inner journey, using rhythmic rattling and drumming to support the process of concentration and tracking.

**Where: Embrace, Shop 1015 Westfield,
Miranda NSW 2228**

When: Sunday 1st April 2012

Time: 5:30pm - 7:30pm

Cost: \$60 includes notes and supper

Bookings: 02 9531 0009

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Herbs of Samhain

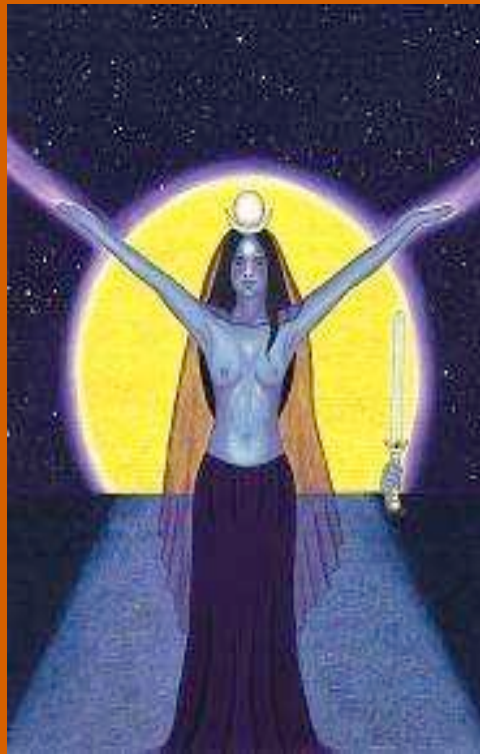
Allspice Berries, Broom,
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Rosemary, Sage, Pine
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Autumn Incense

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Burn on charcoal blocks
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when you need to listen to
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and anxiety. This is not a
time to act on impulses;
there is something more
you need to learn about
your current situation before
moving forward.

Tarot card is from
Glastonbury Tarot by Lisa
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<http://www.ecauldron.net/lammasoils.php>
<http://www.moonsmuses.com/samhaintraditions.html>

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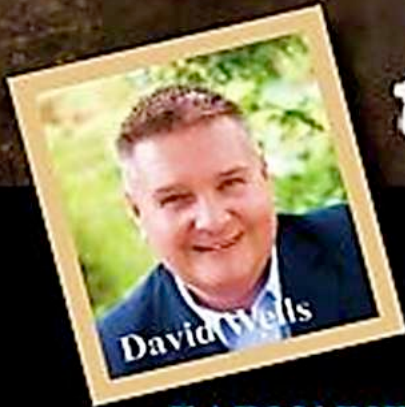
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Energy, the Paranormal & the afterlife - Kerrie Wearing
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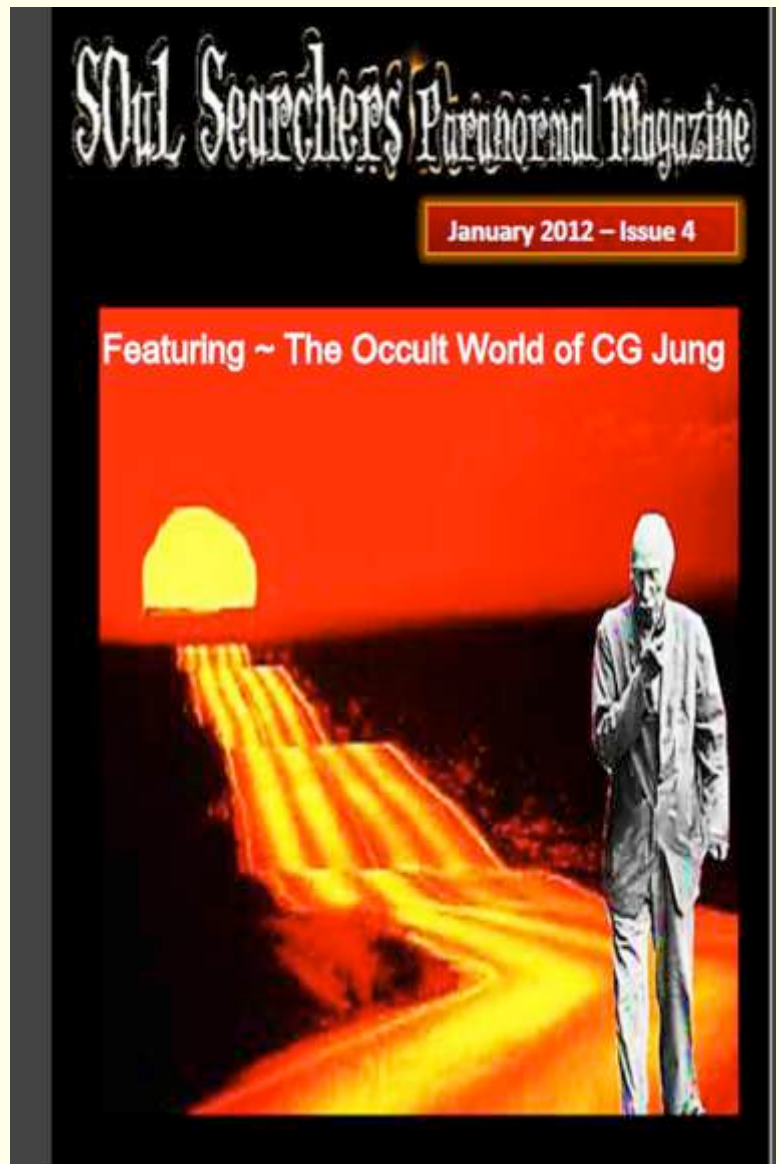


Welcome to SOuL Searchers Magazine

This free bi-monthly online magazine was developed from SOuL Searchers Investigations as a way of communicating our experiences and to further our explorations into the realms of the supernatural and the unexplained.

Our magazine is produced every two months and provides topical information to keep you up to date on news and the latest developments happening in the Australian paranormal community. In addition to our announcements on upcoming activities and events, SOuL Searchers Paranormal Magazine will contain articles, photos and information on the paranormal, parapsychology, ghost tours, mysterious locations, psychics and mediums etc.

Click on the magazine cover to see the latest issue.



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INTRODUCTION TO PARANORMAL INVESTIGATIONS WORKSHOP

Sunday 15TH April 2012

This is a 2 hour introductory workshop to provide basic information on the paranormal and the role of the Paranormal Investigator. Janine Donnellan as seen on Psychic TV is the Founder of SOuL Searchers and will be the facilitator of this workshop.

SOuL Searchers is a paranormal investigation organisation that regularly assists individuals who are experiencing paranormal phenomena in their homes. SOuL Searchers has been featured in the Daily Telegraph, Mania Magazine, The Sun and the St George & Sutherland Leader.

Where: Embrace

When: Sunday 15th April 2012

Time: 5:30- 7:30pm

Cost: \$60 includes notes & Supper

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT SOL?

SOL Full Moon Circle March 30, 2012



Spheres Of Light holds regular Full Moon Circles near Engadine (Southern Sydney, Australia) on the Friday before each Full Moon. These Full Moon gatherings are Open Circles, meaning that all Pagans are welcome to come along any time and experience a Full Moon circle with us. [Details here...](#)

SOL Meditation in the Royal National Park Sunday March 25, & 15 April 2012



[Click here for more information.](#)

Come join us for meditation in the beautiful surrounds of The Royal National Park. Our meditations will be conducted every third Sunday of the month. Please email inquiries@spheresoflight.com.au for times and meet up details.

(Please Note: you must be over 18 years of age to attend any SOL gatherings, events, classes & workshops.)

OTHER PAGAN AND COMMUNITY EVENTS

Please email us the details of any pagan or community events, classes, workshops or regular meetings that you'd like to see promoted here in this free listing.

PAN Full Moon Public Circle Saturday 7 April, 2012 at Seven Hills, Sydney ([map](#)) 8:30pm



PAN Inc. full moon ritual. PAN runs a public full moon ritual each month at Rotaract Hill, Seven Hills. Anyone is welcome to attend - the purpose of the ritual is to provide members of the pagan community an opportunity to celebrate the full moon together & network with friends, it is also a public ritual where those new to paganism can attend to learn more and meet like-minded others, and the rituals also help inform the general public about what pagans do and dispel misguided myths about paganism and witchcraft.

The circle is held on the top of Rotaract Hill on Terminus Road Seven Hills NSW, just next to the train station. Getting there is easy. If you take the train, the hill is less than five minutes' walk (and easily visible from the station). If you drive, there is plenty of parking available both at the base of the hill and across Terminus Road. Full Moon info and contact details here.

Introduction to PaGaian Cosmology

When: April 13th 2012
Where: Springwood, Blue Mountains
Cost: \$65 or \$50 concession
Contact Email: glenys@pagaian.org
Contact Phone: 02 4751 6100

Web: <http://pagaian.org/forum/viewtopic.php?id=843>
Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/groups/257877322873/>

RSVP: glenys@pagaian.org

Description: PaGaian Cosmology celebrates Cosmogenesis in the Wheel of the Year, in metaphor of the Triple Goddess, who is perceived as the Creative Dynamic unfolding the Cosmos in every moment. It is described at Witchvox: http://www.witchvox.com/va/dt_va.html?a=aunsw&c=trads&id=11568. This introduction evening may serve as a beginning to the year-long course that is offered, but not necessarily. The year-long course is based on the book PaGaian Cosmology: Re-inventing Earth-based Goddess Religion by Glenys Livingstone Ph.D.: it is a mentoring through the eight Seasonal Moments/Sabbats of the Wheel of the Year, which is always a deeply individual Journey as well as deeply connecting to Other and All-That-Is.

The Introduction and Course is also offered on-line: for more information <http://pagaian.org/forum/viewtopic.php?id=868>



SOuL Searchers is Spheres of Light's paranormal investigations subgroup. They use a common sense scientific approach to all investigations but also have an open mind to all theories & methodologies.



Crone and Sage is a website that is dedicated to our pagan elders who want to share their knowledge and wisdom, magic and life experiences in the form of articles, poetry, recipes, artwork and music.



The Spheres Of Light Holistic Centre has within its members practitioners who can provide Spiritual Healing in a variety of natural healing modalities.



If you want to know about current topics click [here](#). This is a place where you can discuss ideas and catch up on general news. So if you want to participate please become a member



as we would love to hear from you.

The National Pagan Directory is a Spheres Of Light initiative to help Australian Pagans connect with each other in their local area. It is a FREE listing & provides links to information about covens, groups, workshops, retreats & other special Pagan events, plus Aussie Pagan businesses & services. If you would like your coven, group, regular meet-up to be listed in the NPD please send us your details. To list your one-off or special events please use our Australian Pagan Events forums. We also invite Celebrants in the Pagan community to promote their services in the NPD. For further information & contact details click on the banner above.



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SUBMISSION DEADLINE
14th of each month
Publication Date approx.
20th/21st.

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Spheres Of Light

We stand in our power. The spark within us is one with the eternal flame that guides and sustains us on our journey.



ABN 46 385 794 818

PHONE: 0408 025 268

EMAIL: inquiries@spheresoflight.com.au